

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The Chinese Communists are planning to open mines in Sinkiang and Sikang Provinces which are expected to produce large quantities of copper. However, copper from these mines will not be available until 1953.

25X1X 2 Comment. The USSR and Eastern European countries can supply only small quantities of manufactured articles requiring copper, principally electrical equipment and munitions. They cannot export these items in large quantities. Therefore, copper imports will have to be obtained from Western countries.

25X1X Comment. The use of copper substitutes is already being studied by a number of industries. Substitutes have been developed for some items, such as bamboo for thermos bottle covers, cardboard for flashlights, plastic buttons for copper buttons on military uniforms, and porcelain for the bases of electric light bulbs.

25X1A Comment. With the exception of the military buttons, it is probable that the items listed above are seldom seen outside of the large cities.

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